

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2022 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 148**

BY SENATORS BALDWIN, LINDSAY, AND CAPUTO

[Introduced January 12, 2022; referred  
to the Committee on the Workforce; and then to the  
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
 2 designated §5-11-22, relating to prohibiting racial discrimination based on certain hair  
 3 textures and hairstyles.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 11. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.**

**§5-11-22. Racial discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles; definitions.**

1 (a) For the purposes of this article, discrimination based on race includes, but is not limited  
 2 to, discrimination based on hair textures and protective hairstyles historically associated with a  
 3 particular race.

4 (b) The term “protective hairstyles” includes, but is not limited to, hairstyles such as braids,  
 5 locks, and twists.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify that race discrimination includes discrimination based on certain hair textures and styles.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.